



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture



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Debra K. Kenerson
State Director

nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

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TENNESSEE WHEAT PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Tennessee’s 2004 winter wheat production is forecast at 14.3 million bushels, up 6 percent from 2003, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. The State’s average yield is forecast at 53 bushels per acre, 3 bushels better than 2003. Wheat producers expect to harvest 270,000 acres, unchanged from a year ago. Tennessee farmers seeded 400,000 acres last fall, 30,000 acres less than a year earlier and the lowest planted acreage since 1985. The remaining 130,000 acres was used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage.

Winter wheat planting was underway on schedule by the first week of October and timely rains during the month provided excellent soil moisture for germination. Three-fourths of the crop had been seeded and nearly half had emerged by month’s end. Currently, the winter wheat crop is rated in mostly good condition with only minor disease problems. Growers have been applying fungicides and insecticides as needed. By the week ending May 2, three-fourths of the State’s acreage had headed, outpacing last year and the normal schedule. Harvest in the State normally does not begin until around the first week of June.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on May 2, at 48 percent, was 7 percentage points lower than a year ago.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2004 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	570	630	50.0	51.0	28,500	32,130
Georgia	230	200	46.0	40.0	10,580	8,000
Kentucky	330	350	62.0	65.0	20,460	22,750
Mississippi	125	205	49.0	51.0	6,125	10,455
Missouri	870	950	61.0	55.0	53,070	52,250
North Carolina	410	480	36.0	45.0	14,760	21,600
TENNESSEE	270	270	50.0	53.0	13,500	14,310
Virginia	160	155	46.0	63.0	7,360	9,765
United States	36,541	35,082	46.7	44.2	1,707,069	1,550,395

¹ 2004 forecast, 2003 final.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS HIGHEST ON RECORD

Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 1,182,000 tons on May 1, over twice the amount of hay on hand a year ago. Tennessee’s stocks are the highest on record, following the third largest hay crop on record in 2003. Hay supplies were high going into the winter months and feeding was light due to a relatively mild winter. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, totaled 2.65 million tons, 6 percent lower than the 2002 disappearance of 2.81 million tons for the same period a year earlier.